



# **HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE**

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery**

As the spring time change approaches, this weekend, the Houston Fire Department wants to remind residents to make another change that could save their lives – changing the batteries in their smoke detectors.

An average of three children a day die in home fires and 82 percent of these occur in homes without working smoke detectors. Non-working smoke detectors rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke detectors is worn or missing batteries.

Changing smoke detector batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries. In fact, working smoke alarms nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire. Additionally, the International Association of Fire Chiefs recommends replacing your smoke detector every ten years.

To save lives and prevent needless injuries in Houston, the Houston Fire Department has joined forces with the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Energizer brand Batteries for "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" campaign. The program urges all Americans to adopt a simple, lifesaving habit: changing smoke detector batteries when change clocks.

"Working smoke detectors provide an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape," said Fire Chief Phil Boriskie. " This is particularly important for those most at risk of dying in a home fire, such as children and seniors."